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[AT ONE DOLLAR IN ADVANCE]

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Number 33.

THE HOME IN MY NATIVE LAND.

Oh bear me again to my native land,
To the home of my childhood's mirth,
Let me view the scenes of my early youth,
Ere I take my farewell of earth.
Let me climb once more the green hill side,
Where I've strayed with childish glee,
And hear the song of the woodland bird
And the hum of the laden bee.
Once more let me ramble thy woods among,
Where I've gathered the blushing flowers,
And where from the glare of the noon-day sun,
I have sought thy leafy bowers.
Again let me hear the tuneful lark,
Pour forth his matin lay;
For those scenes are traced by memory's hand
With a love that can ne'er decay.
With fond affection I turn to thee,
My home, 'neath the elm tree's shade,
For there I have often at day's decline,
With my young companions played;
And though I have travelled in other climes
Enriched by nature's hand,
Yet I ne'er met a spot that was half so dear
As the home in my native land.

—The above lines can be sung to the air of the "Carrie Dove."

MISS BRIDGETTA FIDGET.

A wonderful Fidget is little Miss Bridgetta.
I'm sure she can never be mated;
At home or at school, all order and rule,
Are things to be perfectly hated.
It is work to be done—Miss Bridgetta is one,
Can do it as well as another;
But should she attempt it, you soon will lament it,
On finding her only a bother.
Her foot and her hand without a command,
Are good at perpetual motion;
When requested to go, they move very slow,
To obey is so silly a notion.
Or if she obeys, with a very ill grace,
She waits to consider the reason,
The why and because, of such rigid laws.
With her, they are all out of season.
Then should you engage in an argument with her,
In hopes of convincing Miss Bridgetta,
She'll tell you, that she an exception must be,
Because she was born in a Fidget.
You may talk till you ache, for consistency's sake,
I'm sure 'tis a useless endeavor,
For still the last word from Miss Bridgetta is heard,
Replying for ever and ever.
So onward she goes, with her fingers and toes,
As though St. Vitus had caught her,
And even her face, with a scowl or grimace,
To twist out of shape, had taught her.
I remember one diget, resembling Miss Bridgetta,
Can stand on its head if it choose,
Be a nine or a six, according to fix—
Forgive if the likeness amuse.
O Bridgetta, friend, you never will mend,
As long as your name is Miss Fidget;
For work as we may, by night and by day,
You will ever be Fidgety Bridgetta.

THE CHILD AND THE SUNBEAM.

[The following beautiful lines we find in Willis' Home Journal. They were contributed to that valuable paper by Mrs. T. H. Beveridge of Galveston, Texas.]
I saw a youthful mother
Once, on a summer's day,
Set down a smiling infant,
To watch its frolic play.
It gambled on the flowerets
That decked the carpet o'er,
And seemed, with childish wonder,
Each object to explore.
A something on the instant
Its glad career arrests;
And earnestly it gazes where
A golden sunbeam rests.
While on the new-found glory
It fixed its wondering eyes,
And tastefully reached forth its hand,
To seize the glittering prize.
And now, its tiny fingers clasp
The treasure, rich and rare,
Which, in its baby innocence,
It surely thought was there.
But ah! that hand uncloses,
And to its earnest gaze
Reveals no gem of beauty—
No bright, imprisoned ray!
And then the first of many tears
Fell on that cherub face—
The first and disappointment
In life's uncertain race!
And thus it hath been with us all,
Who its dark game have played;
We've sought to grasp the sunshine,
And only found—the shade!

CAPTURE OF THE GUERRIERE.

An anecdote relating to the capture of the Guerriere has lately gone the rounds of the papers, which is stated to be from an unquestionable source, and characteristic of the coolness, prudence, and superior skill of the gallant American Commodore.
The anecdote is doubtless correct in each important particular. A person who was on board the Constitution when the event took place, gives the following version:
The Guerriere was lying-to. The Constitution was leisurely bearing down upon the enemy under three top-sails—every man was at his station, and all on board were eager for the contest, when the Guerriere commenced the action at a long shot.
Capt. Hull gave a peremptory order to his officers not to apply a single match until he gave the word. In a few minutes a forty-two pound shot from the Guerriere took effect and killed and wounded some of our brave tars.
Lieut. Morris immediately left his station on the gun-deck to report the same to the Captain and request permission to return the fire, as the men were very desirous to engage the enemy.
"Mr. Morris," was the Commodore's reply, "are you ready on the gun-deck?"
"Yes, sir."
"Well, keep so—but don't let a gun be fired till I give the word."
In a few moments Mr. Morris again appeared, and stated that he could with difficulty restrain the men from giving the enemy a broadside—so anxious were they to commence the engagement.
"Mr. Morris," reiterated the Commodore, "intently gazing on the English frigate, 'Are you ready for action on the gun-deck?'"
"Yes, sir; and it will be impossible for me any longer to restrain the men from firing on the foe. Their passions are wrought up to the highest possible pitch of excitement. Several of our bravest men are already killed and wounded."
"Keep cool, Mr. Morris—keep cool—See all prepared, and do not suffer a gun to be fired, till I give the word."
The gallant lieutenant went below. In a few moments, the vessels having neared each other, to within pistol-shot distance, Morris was sent for to appear on the quarter-deck.
"Are you ready for action, Mr. Morris?" again demanded the Commodore.
"We are ready, sir, and the men are muttering loud imprecations because they are not suffered to return the fire upon the enemy."
"Fire, then, in God's name!" shouted the Commodore, in a voice of thunder.
It is added that he wore, at the time, a pair of Nankeen tights—and he accompanied this soul-cheering order with such a stamp on the deck with his right foot, that the unfortunate pantaloons were completely split from the knee to the waist-band.
The conduct of Daeres, before and during the action, was such as might have been expected from a brave and generous enemy. Mr. Reed, a young man belonging to Brewster, Mass., at present a respectable ship master out of Boston, had been pressed on board the Guerriere, a few weeks previous to the engagement. Several other American seamen were also on board. When the Constitution was bearing down in such gallant style, and it became evident that a severe action with an American frigate was inevitable, Mr. Reed left his station and proceeded to the quarter-deck, and respectfully but firmly represented to Capt. Daeres, that he was an American citizen, unjustly detained on board the English frigate; that he had hitherto faithfully performed the duties assigned him; but that it could not be reasonably expected that he would fight against his countrymen. He therefore, begged leave to decline the honor of participating in the engagement.
The English captain frankly told him that he appreciated his patriotic feelings; that he did not wish the Americans on board to fight against their countrymen; and he subsequently ordered them into the cockpit to assist the surgeons if necessary.
Reed left the spar-deck after the Guerriere had commenced action. Several shots were known to have taken effect, but the Constitution had not yet fired a gun, much to the amusement of the British tars, who predicted that the enemy would be taken without any resistance, with the exception of a veteran man-of-war's man, who was in the battle of the Nile, and gruffly observed, with a single shake of his head, "That d—d Yankee knows what he's about."
A few moments passed away, and the Constitution poured in her tremendous broadside—every gun was double shot and well pointed; and the effect it had on the enemy can hardly be conceived. Mistimed jests and jeers at the imperturbable, but harmless Yankees, gave place to the groans of the dying; and sixteen poor mutilated creatures were tumbled down into the cockpit from the effects of the first broadside.
Daeres fought as long as a spar was standing, or a gun could be brought to bear upon the enemy; but when his masts were completely shot away, his men, mostly killed and wounded, encumbering the deck; while the scuppers were streaming with gore; when the Guerriere, which a few hours before

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To reach it with his hands without disturbing the two Indians to whom he was fastened was impossible, and it was a very hazardous attempt to draw it out with his feet. This however he attempted. With much difficulty he grasped the blade between his toes, and after repeated and long continued efforts, succeeded in bringing it within reach of his hands. To cut the cord was but the work of a moment, and gradually and silently extricating himself, he walked to the fire and sat down. He felt that his work was but half done. That if he should attempt to return home without destroying his enemies, he would be pursued and probably overtaken, when his fate would be certain. On the other hand, it seemed almost impossible for a single individual to succeed in a conflict with five Indians even though unarmed and asleep. He could not hope to deal a blow with a knife so silently and fatally as to destroy each of his enemies in turn, without awakening the rest. Their slumbers were proverbially light and restless—and if he failed with a single one, he must inevitably be overpowered by the survivors. The knife was therefore out of the question. After anxious reflections for a few moments he formed his plan.
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THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

While events were thus passing around New York, Congress, having assembled in Philadelphia, were engaged in the momentous question of a Declaration of Independence. Many of the separate provinces had already acted on the subject. North Carolina took the first step, and took a vote instructing her delegate to concur with the other colonies in declaring independence. Massachusetts followed. Virginia next wheeled into the ranks, then Connecticut and New Hampshire. Maryland opposed it; while the delegates from the remaining provinces were instructed to unite with the majority, or left free to act as their judgement might dictate. Thus instructed, the representatives of the people assembled in solemn convocation and long and anxiously surveyed the perilous ground on which they were treading. To recede was now impossible—to go on seemed fraught with terrible consequences. The struggle had not been for independence, but for the security of rights, in which they had the sympathy and aid of some of the wisest statesmen of England. To declare themselves free, would cut them off from all this sympathy, and provoke at once the entire power of England against them. The result of the long and fearful conflict that must follow, was more than doubtful. For twenty days Congress was tossed on a sea of perplexity. At length, Richard Henry Lee, shaking off the fetters that galled his noble spirit—June 7th—arose, and in a clear, deliberate tone, every accent of which, rung to the farthest extremity of the silent hall, read, "Resolved, that these United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states, and that all political connection between us and the states of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved." John Adams, in whose soul glowed the burning future, seconded it in a speech so full of impassioned fervor, thrilling eloquence, and prophetic power, that Congress was carried away as by a resistless wave before it.
The die was cast, and every man was now compelled to meet the dreadful issue. Still weighed down with fear, Congress directed the secretary to omit in the journal, the names of the bold mover and seconder of this resolution, lest they should be selected as the special objects of vengeance by Great Britain. The resolution was made the special question for the next day, but remained untouched for three days, and was finally deferred to the first of July, to allow a committee appointed for that purpose, to draft a declaration of independence. When the day arrived, the declaration was taken up and debated article by article. The discussion continued for three days, and was characterized by great excitement; at length the various sections having been gone through with, the next day, July 4th, was appointed for final action. It was soon known throughout the city, and in the morning, before Congress assembled, the streets were filled with excited men, some gathered in groups, engaged in eager discussions, and others moving towards the State House. All business was forgotten in the momentous crisis the country had now reached. No sooner had the members taken their seats, than the multitude gathered in a dense mass around the entrance. The bellman mounted to the belfry, to be ready to proclaim the joyful tidings of freedom as soon as the final vote had passed. A bright eyed boy was stationed below to give the signal. Around that bell, brought from England, had been cast more than twenty years before the prophetic sentence, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Although its loud clang had often sounded over the city, the proclamation engraved on its iron lip had never yet been spoken aloud. It was expected that the final vote would be taken without delay, but hour after hour wore on and no report came from that mysterious hall, where the fate of a continent was being settled. The multitude grew impatient—the old bellman leaned over the railing, straining his eyes downward till his heart misgave him, and hope yielded to fear. But at length, at two o'clock, the door of the hall opened, and a voice exclaimed, "It has passed." The word leaped like lightning from lip to lip, followed by huzzas that shook the building. The boy sentinel turned to the belfry, clapped his hands and shouted "ring! ring!" The desponding bellman electrified into life by the joyful news, seized the iron tongue and buried it backward and forward, with a clang that startled every heart in Philadelphia,

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Heretofore the Indians had taken the precaution to bind him at night, although not very securely, but on that evening he remonstrated with them on the subject and complained so strongly of the pain which the cord gave him, that they merely wrapped the buffalo rug about his wrists, and having tied it in an easy knot and then attached the extremities of the rope to their bodies, in order to prevent his moving without awakening them, they very composedly went to sleep, leaving the prisoner to follow their example or not as he pleased.
McConnell determined to effect his escape that night if possible, as on the following morning they would cross the river, which would render it more difficult. He therefore lay quietly until midnight, anxiously ruminating on the best means of effecting his escape. Accidentally casting his eyes in the direction of his feet, they fell on the glittering blade of a knife, which had escaped from its sheath and was now lying near the feet of one of the Indians.
To reach it with his hands without disturbing the two Indians to whom he was fastened was impossible, and it was a very hazardous attempt to draw it out with his feet. This however he attempted. With much difficulty he grasped the blade between his toes, and after repeated and long continued efforts, succeeded in bringing it within reach of his hands. To cut the cord was but the work of a moment, and gradually and silently extricating himself, he walked to the fire and sat down. He felt that his work was but half done. That if he should attempt to return home without destroying his enemies, he would be pursued and probably overtaken, when his fate would be certain. On the other hand, it seemed almost impossible for a single individual to succeed in a conflict with five Indians even though unarmed and asleep. He could not hope to deal a blow with a knife so silently and fatally as to destroy each of his enemies in turn, without awakening the rest. Their slumbers were proverbially light and restless—and if he failed with a single one, he must inevitably be overpowered by the survivors. The knife was therefore out of the question. After anxious reflections for a few moments he formed his plan.
The guns of the Indians were stacked near the fire. Their knives and tomahawks were sheathed by their sides. The latter he dared not touch for fear of arousing the owners, but the former he carefully removed with the exception of two, and hid them in the woods, where he knew the Indians were still sleeping, perfectly ignorant of the fate preparing for them, and taking one in each hand and resting the muzzle on a log, within six feet of his victims, and having taken deliberate aim at the head of one and the heart of another, he pulled both triggers at the same moment. Both shots were fatal.
At the report of the guns the others sprang to their feet glancing wildly about them. McConnell, who had run to the spot where the other rifles were hid, hastily seized one of them and fired at two of his enemies who happened to be standing in a line with each other, the nearest fell dead, being shot through the centre of the body; the second fell also, bowing loudly, but soon recovering limped off as fast as possible. The fifth, the only one that remained unhurt, darted off like a deer, with a yell that announced equal terror and astonishment. McConnell not wishing to fight any more such battles, selected his own rifle from the stock, and made the best of his way to Lexington, where he arrived in two days.

THE ESCAPE.

A short time afterwards, Mrs. Dunlap, of Fayette, who had been several months a prisoner among the Indians on Mad River, made her escape, and returned to Lexington. She reported that the survivor returned to his tribe with a

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